

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-7, 18 and 19 are pending in the above-identified application. Claims 1, 3-7, 18 and 19 were rejected and claims 28 and 29 were objected to. With this Amendment, claims 1, 5, 28 and 29 were amended. Accordingly, claims 1, 3-7, 18, 19, 28 and 29 are at issue in the above-identified application.

Claim Objections

Claims 28 and 29 were objected to because they depend on cancelled claims. Applicants amended claims 28 and 29 so that they do not depend on cancelled claims. Withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. § 102 Anticipation Rejection of Claims

Claims 1, 3-7, 18 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by *Shimizu et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,386,668). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Amended claim 1, from which claims 3 and 4 depend, and amended claim 5, both recite a device comprising a plurality of nozzles formed within a plurality of nozzle arrays positioned on a nozzle plate, the plurality of nozzles associated with each head chip. Additionally, claim 6, from which claim 7 depends, recites a printer for ejecting ink droplets from pre-determined nozzles to form an image onto a print object comprising a plurality of nozzles formed on a nozzle plate in a nozzle array. Claim 18, from which claim 19 depends, recites a printer head comprising a plurality of nozzles formed on a nozzle plate in a nozzle array. None of the above-cited references, either alone or in combination, teach a device having a plurality of nozzles formed within a plurality of nozzle arrays positioned on a nozzle plate, as required by claims 1,

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3, 4 and 5. For example, the *Shimizu et al.* reference (U.S. Patent No. 6,386,668 B1) discloses an ink jet recording apparatus having an ink jet recording head 23 comprising three head units 231, 232 and 233, each having a large number of ink nozzles 23a arranged in-line at a given pitch, which are adhered to a common plate 234. (See column 4, lines 29-32 and Fig. 3). *Shimizu et al.* does not teach forming a plurality of nozzles within a plurality of nozzle arrays positioned on a nozzle plate, but rather teaches three head units, each having not a large number of ink nozzles wherein each head unit are *adhered* to a common plate, but not all formed on a plate. Since the three head units are not formed all on a single plate, it is difficult to accurately align the head units 231, 232 and 233 with respect to each other, and this may lead to a deterioration of print quality of misplacement occurs amongst these three head units. Either way *Shimizu et al.* does not teach forming a plurality of nozzle arrays positioned on a nozzle plate. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the claimed invention is not anticipated by nor obvious over the applied references, either alone or in combination. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Notice to that effect is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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